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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION:

Due  
a1  
5 The present invention relates to a  
recording/reproducing head and a recording/reproducing  
apparatus incorporating the recording/reproducing head.  
More particularly, the present invention relates to a  
recording/reproducing head, a recording/reproducing  
10 apparatus, and a fabrication method thereof which are  
capable of higher-density recording than conventional hard  
disks and magneto-optical disk apparatuses.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART:

15 A hard disk drive (HDD) 1000 represented in  
Figure 11 or a magneto-optical disk (MO) apparatus 2000  
represented in Figure 12 can record information signal in  
high density. These apparatuses include a magnetic  
head 1019 and a magneto-optical head 2020, respectively,  
as a recording/reproducing head.

20 When the magnetic head 1019 as shown in Figure 11  
is used to attempt to obtain high-density  
recording/reproducing which exceeds about 40 Gb/inch<sup>2</sup>,  
reproducing is feasible if a giant magnetoresistive (GMR)  
25 device 1014 is provided between shields 1015. In a  
structure of the magnetic head 1019 in which a surface of  
the GMR device 1014 is exposed, friction or noise occurs  
due to the GMR device 1014. When a tunnel type GMR (TMR)  
device is used instead of the GMR device 1014, a short  
30 circuit is likely to occur. Such a problem may be avoided  
by means of a so-called yoke-type head (not shown). In a  
conventional yoke-type head, however, a gap needs to be  
provided between the GMR device 1014 (or the TMR device)

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